

**ROBERT H. RICHARDS AWARD**  
**Guidelines & Procedures**



**Overview and Eligibility**

The Robert H. Richards Award in Minerals Beneficiation (Richards Award) recognizes achievement in any form that unmistakably furthers the art of mineral beneficiation in any of its branches and may be awarded from time to time upon authorization by the SME Board of Directors on recommendation of the Robert H. Richards Committee of Award.

There are no limitations regarding nationality or membership in the AIME Member Societies, but preference is given to members. If a committee member is nominated, they will either find a replacement committee member so that they can resign for the year or remove their nomination until their term is up. Candidate must be living or passed away prior to May 1st of the nomination year.

No AIME Major Award winner is eligible to be nominated for another AIME Major Award until 9 years shall have elapsed, and the nomination support package shall conspicuously reference work in a new field or significant new accomplishments in the field for which the original award was made. (The AIME Major Awards are the Charles F. Rand Memorial Gold Medal, Robert Earll McConnell Award, James Douglas Gold Medal, Hal Williams Hardinge Award, Erskine Ramsay Medal, Robert H. Richards Award, William Lawrence Saunders Gold Medal, Benjamin F. Fairless Award and Anthony F. Lucas Gold Medal.)

AIME Board members are exempt from receiving AIME awards.

**Timeline**

The Richards Award adheres to the following timeline:

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Task</b>
April 1	Call for nominations
June 1	Nomination deadline
June 30	Committee chair provides qualified applications to members of committee
July 15	First round of voting complete; committee chair schedules conference call to discuss results (if needed)
July 25	Second round of voting complete (if needed)
August 1	Recipient name and citation provided to awards coordinator
September 15	Recipient is notified
SME Annual Meeting	Award is presented

**Nominations**

Nominations for the Richards Award should contain the following information:

1. Completed nomination form including demographic and contact information for both the nominee and the principal nominator.
2. Up to five letters of support detailing the nominee's qualifications for the award (no longer than 2 pages each).
3. Nominee's biography (2 page maximum).
4. Nominee's CV/resume (abbreviated version – 3 page maximum).
5. List of papers/publications (abbreviated version – 3 page maximum).
6. Appropriate award citation.

All nominations submitted will be considered active nominations for a period of three years. Nominations must be submitted in accordance with the guidelines provided on the award nomination form, which may be downloaded here: <http://www.smenet.org/awards/>

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<b>Administration</b>	The Richards Award is administered by the SME Mineral & Metallurgical Processing Division (MPD) Executive Committee. The Richards Award Committee shall consist of nine (9) members of the Society, two being appointed annually by the SME President, subject to approval of the Board of Directors. The tenure of office shall be four years.
<b>Selection of Recipients</b>	Recipients of the Richards Award shall be selected by a majority vote by the Committee of the Award, subject to the approval of the MPD Executive Committee and the SME Board of Directors. The Award need not be presented in any given year if a suitable candidate is not agreed upon.
<b>Award</b>	The Richards Award shall consist of a silver vanning plate, about twelve inches in diameter, engraved or embossed with the name of the award as follows: THE ROBERT H. RICHARDS AWARD IN MINERALS BENEFICIATION PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING, METALLURGICAL, AND PETROLEUM ENGINEERS as well as the name of the recipient and the citation of the particular achievement for which the award is being conferred.
<b>Presentation of Award</b>	The Award will be presented at SME's Annual Awards Banquet, held in conjunction with SME's Annual Meeting. Additionally, the Richards Award recipient will be recognized during the MPD Luncheon and invited to present a lecture of his/her choice during the MPD Plenary Session.
<b>Funding</b>	All expenses incurred in respect of the Award shall be the financial responsibility of the Mineral & Metallurgical Processing Division.
<b>Amendments</b>	These guidelines may be amended by the Award Committee, subject to approval by the MPD Executive Committee, SME Board of Directors, and AIME Trustees. Any such amendments must be reflected in all appropriate award documentation.
<b>Questions</b>	Questions may be directed to: Awards Coordinator E-mail: <a href="mailto:awards@smenet.org">awards@smenet.org</a> or SME Member Services Department Phone: 303-948-4200

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